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President Obama and President Medvedev exchange the signed new START treaty documents, in Prague

PRESIDENTS SIGN WEAPONS TREATY

The presidents of the USA and Russia signed a new agreement in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, on 8th April. The agreement, called the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), states that each country will reduce its number of nuclear weapons, or warheads.

The meeting in Prague between Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev was **significant**. This was because one year ago President Obama made a speech in the same city about nuclear weapons. It was only just after he officially became president of the USA. In his speech President Obama promised to work to get rid of all nuclear weapons in the world.

Nuclear, or atomic, weapons were first developed in secret by the USA in the 1940s. At this time the Second World War was being fought in Europe and the Pacific. In 1945 the USA dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima

and Nagasaki. A few days after the second atomic bomb was dropped Japan agreed to surrender and the war came to an end.

The two bombs killed around 210,000 people. Many others died from radiation poisoning and burns in the months that followed. It was the first and only time atomic weapons have been used in war.

Many people criticised the USA for dropping the bombs. Others argued the bombing of the two Japanese cities helped bring the war to an immediate end. It also provided a warning to the whole world about the destructive power of nuclear explosions.

During the Second World War the USA, together with France and the UK, fought on the same side as Russia. Yet soon after the war ended the 'West' – the USA, France and the UK – became enemies with the Russian-led Soviet Union

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in the 'East'. This East-West divide became known as the Cold War.

Russia quickly realised the Soviet Union was at a disadvantage because the USA had developed nuclear weapons. However, some people worked in the USA as spies for Russia. They secretly passed information about American nuclear technology to the Soviet Union. In 1948 Russia surprised the USA when it tested its own atomic bomb.



Long-range missile

By the early 1950s the UK and France had also developed nuclear weapons. Around the same time Russia helped China produce its first atomic bomb. During the Cold War both the USA and the Soviet Union developed more and more nuclear warheads and the 'nuclear arms race' began.

The Cold War ended in 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed. Yet as President Obama said in his speech in Prague one year ago, 'the Cold War disappeared but thousands of those weapons did not'.

The first START treaty (or START I) was signed by Russia and the USA in 1991. The signing of START II followed in 1993. The new START treaty means both Russia and the USA have agreed to reduce their numbers of nuclear warheads to between 1,500 and 1,675 each. This is about a 30% reduction.

Nuclear warheads can be launched on long-range missiles or

dropped by heavy bombers or large planes. Under the treaty each side will also be limited to no more than 800 of these in total.

China, France and the UK have far fewer nuclear weapons than the USA and Russia. China is thought to have around 180 nuclear warheads, France 300 and the UK 160.

Since 1970 many countries have signed an important nuclear weapons agreement. Called the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) it is meant to stop the further spread, or proliferation, of nuclear weapons. The treaty says NPT member countries are allowed to develop nuclear power for peaceful means, such as making electricity, but not for making warheads. Now, 189 countries have signed the NPT.

India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea are not NPT members. Each has developed its own nuclear weapons, although Israel has never officially admitted this. Pakistan and India are believed to have 60 nuclear warheads each, Israel 80 and North Korea fewer than five.

Iran is a member of the NPT. But the USA suspects it has broken the treaty. It accuses Iran of planning to make its own nuclear weapons. Iran denies this. It claims its nuclear experiments are for peaceful purposes only.

Two days before the meeting in Prague President Obama announced new rules, or guidelines, about when America's own nuclear weapons can be used. These rules are known as the country's Nuclear [Posture Review](#) (NPR). They now confirm for the first time that America will never carry out a nuclear attack on another NPT member country. However, this is only true if that country does not break the treaty. Most people therefore think the

new nuclear posture excludes Iran because the USA believes it has broken the NPT.

The new NPR also says America has future plans to introduce a rule called 'no first use'. This means the USA's nuclear warheads would only be used in defence, to deter or stop other countries from attacking America with nuclear weapons. The new guidelines also state the USA will not develop any new nuclear weapons.

Before he was elected president, Mr Obama said he hoped one day there will be a 'nuclear free world'. Some people believe the new START treaty and NPR make his hope more likely to come true. ▣

MINE RESCUE MIRACLE

More than 100 men were rescued from a flooded mine in China on 5th April. As the men had been trapped deep underground without food or water for over a week, many people described their rescue as a miracle.



Rescue workers at the coal mine

The Wangjialing coal mine is in China's Shanxi province. On 28th March men working in the mine broke into an old tunnel, or mine-shaft. This part of the mine was no longer used. Over time it had become flooded. The water rushed into the tunnels in which the men were working.

When the water flooded the tunnels about 250 men were in the mine.

Around 100 managed to get out. But this left more than 150 still trapped underground. Officials were sure the water would not have completely filled all the tunnels and that many miners could have found safe places where they would be able to survive.

Hundreds of rescue workers were called to the mine. They immediately began to pump the water out. But they knew it could take a long time to remove all the water. There were also worries about the amount of dangerous gas building up in the mine.

On 2nd April rescuers working in one flooded tunnel heard a tapping noise on a metal pipe. This convinced them that some of the trapped men were still alive.

As soon as it was possible rescue workers used rubber boats to travel along the flooded tunnels. On 5th April they found nine miners. The men had used their belts to tie themselves to the mine walls to stop them from drowning while they slept. These men said to survive they had eaten tiny bits of wood and pieces of paper they had found floating in the dirty water.

Eleven hours after the first men were rescued, 115 more miners were found and brought to the surface. Rescue workers at the entrance to the mine cheered as the men were brought out. Most were immediately taken to hospital. All had to have their eyes protected after spending such a long time in the dark.

In the following days 14 bodies were found. Rescue workers are continuing to search for 24 men who are still missing.

Some accused the mine owners of ignoring warnings. They said water leaks in the mine had been seen days before the accident happened but nothing had been done about it.

China generates much of its electricity from burning coal. Yet its coal

mines have a very bad safety record. Last year over 2,600 miners died in around 1,600 mine accidents. ■

SREBRENICA APOLOGY

On 31st March Serbia's National Assembly, or parliament, voted at the end of a long debate. The vote was to **condemn** the Srebrenica **massacre**. This massacre took place in Bosnia 15 years ago.



Serbia and Bosnia were once part of Yugoslavia. In the early 1990s different parts of Yugoslavia wanted to become independent. Eventually, Yugoslavia broke up into six different countries – Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia. More recently Kosovo, originally part of Serbia, has also declared independence. Kosovo has support from European Union (EU) member countries. Yet other countries, such as Russia, refuse to recognise it as an independent country.

During the break up of Yugoslavia several wars started. These are often described as the 'Balkan Wars'. The Balkans is a name used to describe an area of south east Europe, of which Yugoslavia was a part. One of the wars was in Bosnia. It began soon after Bosnia declared independence in 1991.

The war was between Bosnian Muslims and the mostly-Christian Serbs living in Bosnia. The Serbs in Bosnia also had some military support from Serbia. At the time the United Nations (UN) also became involved. UN peacekeepers, or monitors, were sent to Bosnia to try to keep the two sides apart.

In July 1995 soldiers from the Bosnian Serb army took over a Muslim area called Srebrenica. The men and women living in the area were separated. Afterwards Serbian soldiers shot around 8,000 Muslim men and boys. This became known as the Srebrenica massacre.

Four months after the massacre the war in Bosnia ended. The USA managed to persuade the leaders of Bosnia and Serbia to sign a peace agreement. This became known as the Dayton Agreement, after the town in the USA where the peace talks were held.

After the breakup of Yugoslavia a special court was set up in The

NewsCast

GIANT CHOCOLATE RABBIT — On 28th April 250 children in South Africa enjoyed a huge treat – breaking up and eating a giant sculpture carved from over three tonnes of chocolate. The sculpture was in the shape of a rabbit, or Easter Bunny. Harry Johnson, a well-known South African sculptor, had carved it. Several charities helped to arrange the event. They support young people who have to look after other family members and be 'adults' as they have lost their parents. The event organisers said it's important for these young people to enjoy being children too. This, they say, includes having chocolate treats.

Netherlands with help from the UN. Its job is to put people on trial for war crimes committed during the Balkan Wars.



Graves of people killed at Srebrenica

The leaders of Serbia and the Bosnian Serbs at the time of the Srebrenica massacre were eventually arrested. They were sent to the court in The Netherlands to be put on trial. Slobodan Milošević, who was the Serbian president at the time, died of heart problems in 2006 during his trial. The trial of Radovan Karadžić, the Bosnian Serb leader, has only recently begun. However, Ratko Mladić, who was the Bosnian Serb army commander when the massacre took place, is yet to be found. He is thought to be hiding somewhere in Serbia.

Boris Tadić is the president of Serbia. He arranged for the debate on Srebrenica to be held in the Serbian parliament. Many politicians disagreed with having to vote on something which they claim their country was not responsible. Out of the 250 members of parliament, 127 – just over half – voted to condemn the massacre. Many people agree that Serbia was not responsible for the massacre but think it could have prevented it.

At the end of 2009 President Tadić applied for Serbia to join the European Union (EU). Slovenia, which was also once part of Yugoslavia, has already joined. Some people think President Tadić arranged the debate and vote on

Srebrenica to help his country's EU application. However, others believe Serbia will not be allowed to join the EU until Mr Mladić is arrested and handed over to the war crimes court in The Netherlands. ■

SHIP HITS GREAT BARRIER REEF

A Chinese cargo ship has become stuck on a part of the Great Barrier Reef off the north east coast of Australia.

The ship, called the *Shen Neng One*, ran onto the reef on 3rd April. It became stuck in an area called the Douglas Shoals. The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef in the world. It is over 2,000 kilometres (1,250 miles) long. The reef is an important **ecological** site. It is a specially-protected area and home to thousands of marine species, many of them endangered.



Shen Neng One stuck on coral reef

The ship was sailing from the Australian port of Gladstone back to China. It has about 65,000 tonnes of coal and 950 tonnes of oil on board. Some people worry the ship might break up. This would cause a huge amount of damage to the reef and surrounding waters.

The ship's engine was damaged when it hit the reef. Its fuel tank also split open. Australian marine experts used special chemicals to **disperse** the fuel oil that leaked into the sea. Floating barriers, or booms,

have been put around the ship to stop any more leaking oil from spreading. A **tugboat** has also been sent to make sure that the Chinese ship stays upright.

However, the movement of the sea is gradually moving the ship along the top of the reef. This means the coral just below the surface of the sea is being damaged.

Experts say the danger of the ship breaking up has now decreased. Yet they think it could be many weeks before the ship can be 'refloated' off the reef. An operation has now started to pump all the oil off the ship and onto another one. It is hoped that this will raise the Chinese ship high enough in the water so it can be pulled off the reef.

Large ships are not allowed to sail near the Great Barrier Reef because it is a protected area. Instead there are nearby authorised shipping lanes, or corridors. Some reports said the Chinese ship was taking a shortcut and was 12 kilometres (7.5 miles) from the authorised shipping lane. Authorities are now investigating to find out if the ship broke any rules.

The crew of the *Shen Neng One* has remained on the ship. Australian officials plan to question them to find out why the ship was not using the proper shipping corridor.

On 6th April Kevin Rudd, the prime minister of Australia, was flown in a helicopter to the place where the ship is stuck. Mr Rudd said he was very angry about what had happened.

The company that owns the ship is part of a Chinese government-owned organisation called the Chinese Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO). Experts say the ship's owners will have to pay for refloating the ship. If it's confirmed the ship broke the rules by sailing

outside the authorised shipping lane, the company could also be fined £610,000 (A\$1 million). ■

SOUTH KOREAN NAVY SHIP SINKS

On 26th March an explosion occurred on a South Korean navy ship. The ship, called the *Cheonon*, had over 100 people on board. It was sailing in the Yellow Sea close to North Korea. The ship sank soon after the explosion.



The captain of the *Cheonon* was reported to have made a broadcast saying his ship was under attack just after the explosion. Other South Korean navy ships rushed to the area. They managed to rescue 58 members of the *Cheonon's* crew. However, 46 others were missing. Some people suspected the *Cheonon* had been sunk by a North Korean submarine.

North and South Korea have a troubled history. They used to be one country before being taken over by Japan in 1910. After Japan was defeated at the end of the Second World War in 1945, the Americans occupied the south of the country and the Russians the northern part. Each organised a different system of

government. The USA introduced democratic elections in the South and Russia set up a communist government in the North.

In 1950 the Korean War started when the North invaded the South. The United Nations (UN) – using mostly American troops – supported the South. The Chinese helped the North. A truce was agreed in 1953. Today's border between the countries is known as the De-Militarized Zone (DMZ). It follows the line where the two armies faced each other when the truce was declared.

Although the war ended over 50 years ago no official peace treaty has ever been signed. So now thousands of North and South Korean soldiers face each other across the DMZ. Many people worry an incident such as the sinking of the *Cheonon* could cause another war to break out between the two Koreas.

South Korean navy officials said the *Cheonon* was split in two by the explosion. The missing men were believed to be trapped in one part of the sunken ship. However, navy divers were unable to find any signs of life. After a week the search for the missing crew members was called off. Now plans are being made to salvage both halves of the ship.

The *Cheonon* sank near a North Korean island called Baengnyeong. It is not clear exactly where the border is in this part of the Yellow Sea. In the past North and South Korean ships have fired at each other in this area.

Not everyone thinks a North Korean submarine sank the *Cheonon*. Some believe the ship sank after hitting an old sea mine – an explosive device that floats just under the water – left over from the time of the Korean War. Once the ship has been salvaged the South Korean navy will begin an investigation to

try to find out what happened. So far North Korea has not said anything about the incident. ■

MEKONG COUNTRIES MEET

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) held its first official meeting, or summit, between 2nd and 5th April. The Commission was first set up in April 1995, so the summit also coincided with its 15th anniversary. The meeting was held in Hua Hin, a town in Thailand.

The River Mekong is the 12th-longest river in the world. It flows through parts of China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. Around 60 million people in these countries are estimated to rely on the river for water, food, transport and farming.

The original members of the MRC are Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. The leaders of each country took part in the meeting.

NewsCast

NEW WORLD RECORD SET — A Danish man has set a new world record – by holding his breath. Stig Severinsen, aged 37, held his breath underwater for 20 minutes and ten seconds. This was the first time a person has ever been recorded holding his or her breath for longer than 20 minutes. Mr Severinsen spent many months training for his record attempt, which took place in the shark tank of an aquarium in Denmark. Before getting into the tank Mr Severinsen spent ten minutes breathing in pure oxygen. This was done to make sure his body was saturated with the oxygen it needed during the time he held his breath.

Although China and Myanmar (also known as Burma), which is run by army generals, have been invited neither has joined the MRC. Yet both agreed to send government officials to attend the MRC summit.



During his speech Abhisit Vejjajiva, the prime minister of Thailand, said the River Mekong will not survive unless it is managed properly. He claimed the river is being affected by too much water being taken out for human use, and by climate change. Currently the river levels in Thailand and Laos are the lowest they have been for over 50 years. Fishermen who work on the river complain they are no longer able to catch enough fish to make a living.

Over the last ten years China has built several hydroelectric dams on the river. It and some of the MRC member countries have plans to build more. Many people claim China's hydroelectric dams are a cause of the lower water level. They also say pollution and an increase in the number of people living close to the river are affecting the Mekong.

China insists its dams are not the reason for the problems. Its representatives at the meeting said the river is low because of a lack of rain in south west China, through which

the River Mekong flows. This area of China is suffering from a drought that some say is the worst for 100 years. The MRC leaders at the meeting agreed with China. They too believe less rainfall is the cause of the current problems.

China has agreed to share more information with members of the MRC. This will include details of rainfall and river levels in the area where their dams are located. ■

AUSTRALIA'S T-REX DISCOVERY

A fossilised dinosaur bone discovered more than 20 years ago in Australia has recently been identified. The bone shows that the southern part of the world, or hemisphere, once had its very own version of the Tyrannosaurus Rex.

The hipbone was discovered with many other dinosaur bones and bone fragments at a place called Dinosaur Cove. The bone comes from a dinosaur calculated to have been about three metres (10 feet) long and to have weighed around 80 kilograms (176 pounds).

This is many times smaller and lighter than the giant Tyrannosaurus Rex, more commonly known as T-Rex. T-Rex is believed to have been one of the largest meat-eating dinosaurs ever to have existed. Palaeontologists – scientists who study dinosaurs – estimate T-Rex weighed as much as four tonnes and could be up to 12 metres (39.4 feet) in length. This fearsome dinosaur is known to have existed in the northern hemisphere around 70 million years ago.

The bones discovered in Australia are 110 million years old. They are from an earlier time in prehistory than that of the giant T-Rex.

The palaeontologists explained T-Rex's hipbones have a very unusual shape not found in the bones of any other dinosaurs. The bone they have identified, they say, is a smaller version of this unusually-shaped hipbone. So it probably belonged to an ancestor of the giant T-Rex.

Until now, all T-Rex bones have been found in the northern hemisphere. So scientists thought the species did not live in the southern hemisphere. But the identification of the bone seems to prove a smaller relative of T-Rex did once live in the southern hemisphere.

Today many of Australia's native species are not found in the wild anywhere else in the world. This is true of the koala, the kangaroo, the platypus and several other species. This has made some palaeontologists suspect Australia may have had its 'own' dinosaur species too. But the scientists who identified the bone say their discovery means this is unlikely. Instead, they believe it shows related dinosaurs were spread over wide areas.



Artist's impression of a Tyrannosaurus Rex

The team says the identification of the hip bone means there are probably more T-Rex bones to be discovered in other southern hemisphere countries. The scientists say the question they now want to answer is why the T-Rex in the northern hemisphere evolved to be such a giant, while in the southern hemisphere it did not. ■

NEW STATUE IN SENEGAL

On 4th April Senegal, a former French colony, celebrated its 50th anniversary of being an independent country. As part of the celebrations Abdoulaye Wade, the country's president, **unveiled** a huge new statue.

The statue, called the African Renaissance Monument, is 49 metres (160 feet) high. The monument is of a man, holding a woman and a child, emerging from the top of a mountain. It is made of copper sheets three centimetres (1.2 inches) thick and was built by a company from North Korea. The



African Renaissance Monument

statue looks out over the Atlantic Ocean and stands on a hill above Dakar, the capital city of Senegal.

The statue was President Wade's idea. His supporters claim it represents the whole of Africa's rise from 'past **intolerance** and racism'.

Yet others have complained about the statue. They say its design does not represent African art. Instead, they say, it looks more like the huge statues built in the communist Soviet Union when Joseph Stalin was in charge.

Others have complained about the statue's estimated cost of £18 million (US\$27 million). Opponents of President Wade say many people in Senegal live in poverty and the country cannot afford to spend this much money on a statue.

Senegal is a mostly Muslim country. Some local Muslim leaders have also complained about the design of the monument. They say the clothes the man and woman are wearing are **inappropriate**.

President Wade hopes the new statue will help attract tourists to Senegal. He wants to keep 35% of the money paid by tourists who visit the statue. This, he says, is because it was his idea to build it. His decision to keep some of the money is unpopular.

The day before the Independence Day celebrations, many people held protests in Dakar against the way in which President Wade runs the country.

Nineteen leaders of other African countries attended the statue's opening ceremony. Also present were 100 African Americans and representatives from North Korea.

Since Senegal became independent France has continued to use a few military bases in the country. To mark the 50th anniversary it agreed to hand these over to the Senegalese government. ■

HAITI CONFERENCE

Representatives of 138 countries met at the headquarters of the United Nations (UN), in the USA, on 31st March. The meeting was a donor conference. It was held to confirm how much money countries would pledge, or promise, to donate to the rebuilding of Haiti.

A powerful earthquake struck Haiti on 12th January. Around 220,000 people were killed and thousands of buildings destroyed in Port-au-Prince, the capital city. Immediately after the earthquake many countries and international aid organisations sent medical

teams, medicines, shelters, food and water. The government of the USA ordered several warships to sail to Haiti. Thousands of American troops have been helping to distribute aid in the country and to keep the peace.

Now around 1.3 million people – more than 10% of the country's population – are still homeless. Most are living in tents in over 450 **make-shift** camps. Every year Haiti has a rainy season, which has just begun. The rains are very heavy and are beginning to flood some of the camps.

Two weeks after the earthquake several countries and international aid organisations met in Montréal in Canada. They decided a study would have to be done to find out how much damage the earthquake caused. This study would also calculate how much money would be needed to rebuild the country. UN member countries would then be invited to make donations.



Homeless people's camp in Haiti

The study has now been completed. It says the cost of rebuilding the country over the next ten years will be £23 billion (US\$35 billion). Of this about £7.6 billion (US\$11.6 billion) will be needed within the next two years.

The donor conference was held at the UN's headquarters, in New York City. It was run by René Préal, the president of Haiti. Hillary Clinton, a senior American politician, and Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of

the UN, also attended. Mrs Clinton's husband Bill Clinton, a former president of the USA, also took part. Mr Clinton has been appointed the UN's special **envoy** for Haiti.

During the conference around 60 countries pledged to donate a total of £3.5 billion (US\$5.3 billion) over the next 18 months. The largest pledges were made by the European Union (EU) and the USA. Even some very small countries offered to contribute. For example, Montenegro promised to give £6,250 (US\$10,000).

The money pledged will now be used to rebuild hospitals, schools and houses. It will also help to create jobs and reorganise farming in the country.

Some people worry that the rebuilding work is happening too slowly. As the rains make the conditions in the camps worse, people living there may become ill. And after the rainy season ends, the hurricane season begins. Hurricanes are very powerful storms. If a hurricane were to strike Haiti everyone living in the camps would have to be moved to safer places. ■

ELECTRICITY-SAVING HOLIDAY

People in Venezuela have been given an extra-long holiday. The extended holiday was granted to reduce the amount of electricity the country uses.

Like people in many other Christian countries, Venezuelans have an Easter holiday. During the holiday offices, factories and government buildings shut. In Venezuela the Thursday and Friday before the Easter weekend are national holidays.

Hugo Chávez is the president of Venezuela. Before the Easter holidays

he declared the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday following the Easter weekend would also be national holidays this year.

Currently Venezuela has an electricity shortage. Although the country has large amounts of oil and gas, nearly all of its electricity comes from hydroelectric power plants. One plant on the River Orinoco, called the Guri Dam, is one of the largest dams in the world. It generates about 70% of all the electricity used in Venezuela. But there has been a serious drought in the parts of the country where the hydroelectric plants are. This means there is no longer enough water behind the dams to generate all the electricity the country needs.



Hugo Chávez

The government of Venezuela controls the company that runs the hydroelectric plants. At the beginning of this year President Chávez ordered the company to start 'rolling blackouts' to save electricity. When an electricity supply is switched off it is often described as a blackout. The rolling blackouts mean everyone's electricity is switched off for four hours every other day.

President Chávez said the extra days of holiday would help the country to save electricity. However, restaurants, banks and hotels were told to stay open. Many business leaders and company bosses were angry about the announcement. They said the rolling blackouts and extra holidays were making it

NewsCAST

LONG-DISTANCE LOVE — Each year, in Croatia, an unlikely love story unfolds. On 24th March, people living in an area called Brodski Varos spotted the arrival of a stork called Rodan. The stork's partner, Malena, has a nest there. Malena cannot fly because of an injury to her wing. Rodan, like many birds, migrates to a warmer climate every winter. Yet locals say for the last five years he has always returned to Malena, usually on exactly the same day. The person who looks after Malena says the two storks raise a nest of chicks each year and Rodan teaches them to fly.



difficult for them to run their businesses. Recently, President Chávez has also forced companies to pay fines if the government thinks they are using too much electricity.

On 2nd April Vladimir Putin, the prime minister of Russia, visited Venezuela. In the past President Chávez has agreed to buy large amounts of military equipment and weapons from Russia. During Mr Putin's visit Mr Chávez announced that Russia has agreed to help search for new oil fields in Venezuela. He also said Russia will help Venezuela build its first electricity-generating nuclear power station. Yet this will take many years to complete.

President Chávez blames the drought for the country's electricity problems. But his opponents say it is his fault. They claim that Mr Chávez should have built oil-burning power stations during his 11 years as president. Venezuela, they say, has enough oil to easily produce all the electricity it needs. ■

SUICIDE BOMBS IN MOSCOW

Two large explosions occurred in Moscow, the capital of Russia, on 29th March. Two suicide bombers set off, or detonated, the explosives they were carrying on the city's metro, or underground railway.

Rescue teams rushed to the two stations after the explosions happened. Much of the metro system was shut down. Around 40 people were killed and over 100 injured.



Moscow's metro is one of the world's busiest underground railways. It is estimated that every day over 500,000 people travel on it.

These were not the first terrorist attacks on Moscow's metro. Six years ago there were two similar attacks. Yet those suicide bombs were a few months apart and did not happen on the same day.

The two explosions occurred at different stations. One was at the Lubyanka station, underneath the headquarters of the Federal Security Service (FSB). One job of this organisation is to stop militant groups carrying out terrorist attacks such as suicide bombings.

Soon after the explosions FSB officials said they had CCTV film of the two suicide bombers entering underground stations and getting on trains. Both were women. The officials say the women had hidden the explosives under their clothes. The

security services are now searching for two men who were seen helping the suicide bombers.

In Russia, women who are prepared to be suicide bombers are nicknamed 'Black Widows'. The security officials say they are sure the two women were members of a militant group from Chechnya.

Chechnya is on the northern side of the Caucasus Mountains. It's what's known as a Russian federal subject. There are 83 of these in total. Each one is part of Russia but some, such as Chechnya, also have their own governments and are known as republics. Chechnya's population is mostly Muslim.

Two wars have been fought in Chechnya over the last 18 years. These have been between Muslim armed groups that want Chechnya to be an independent country, and the Russian army. It's thought that over 100,000 people died in these wars. At the time of the fighting many people accused the Russian soldiers of treating the local people in Chechnya very badly.

Chechnya has a federal government that supports Russia. But several militant terrorist groups carry out frequent bombings and shootings. These problems have now spread to two other nearby federal republics – Ingushetia and Dagestan. This part of Russia is often called 'the north Caucasus'. One of the Moscow suicide bombers is believed to have come from Dagestan.

The militant groups claim they want to set up a separate 'North Caucasus' independent state. Yet it is very unlikely Russian leaders would allow this to happen.

Dmitry Medvedev is the president of Russia. He visited the two metro stations in Moscow the day after the bombings. Vladimir Putin,

the Russian prime minister, went to the hospitals where the injured are being treated. He says he is sure the group that planned the metro attacks will be caught and arrested. ■

UK DECLARES NEW MARINE RESERVE

On 1st April the UK government announced a decision to create a new marine reserve, or protected area, in the Indian Ocean. The reserve will cover the area of the Chagos Islands and the waters surrounding them.

The Chagos Islands are an archipelago, or group, of 55 islands. All are coral atolls. They are also known as the British Indian Ocean Territory. The Islands have been controlled by the UK for nearly 200 years.

In the 1960s the UK government forced the 1,500 people living on the islands to leave. Most went to live in Mauritius, another group of islands in the Indian Ocean. The UK did this so the American military could set up a large base on Diego Garcia, the largest and now the only inhabited island in the group. At the time the UK government argued it was strategically important to have a military base on the Chagos Islands. Today around 3,200 members of the American navy are based on Diego Garcia.

The Chagos Islands and the surrounding waters are spread over 544,000 square kilometres (210,000 square miles) of ocean. Marine experts say it is very important to conserve and protect these coral atolls.

Conservationists say the area of ocean around the atolls is quite unpolluted. This means the Chagos Island reefs are among the world's healthiest and most diverse ecosystems. Marine conservationists are pleased the UK has decided to declare the Chagos Islands a reserve.

Other people worry that the rights of the original inhabitants of the islands, called Chagossians, have been ignored. An organisation called the Chagos Refugee Group has been demanding the UK government should let all Chagossians return to Diego Garcia. Yet they say if the Islands are made a protected marine reserve Chagossians will not be able to make a living from fishing. They therefore argue that the marine reserve announcement is just another way to stop them returning.



Diego Garcia

The government of Mauritius is also unhappy about the UK's decision. It says the UK promised the Islands would be handed over to Mauritius when they were no longer needed as a military base.

The government of Mauritius believes the laws protecting the reserve should not be recognised. This, it says, is because an international decision should be made about who really owns the Chagos Islands before any announcements about a future marine reserve can be made. ■

TRIAL WITHOUT JURY

On 31st March a judge in the UK declared four men guilty of armed robbery. The judge's decision, or verdict, was historic. It was the first criminal trial of this type in the UK

in which a jury did not decide upon the verdict.

In many countries, criminal trials must be heard and decided upon by a jury – a group of members of the public. The number of people on a jury varies depending on the country. It is usually between seven and 15. The jury sits and listens to all the evidence presented during the trial. The jurors then discuss this and make a decision on whether the person or people on trial are guilty of the crime. The judge then decides on the punishment for anyone found guilty.

In the UK all adults between the ages of 18 and 70 who are registered to vote in elections can be called, or summoned, for jury service. By law if a person is summoned, he or she must attend. However, this doesn't mean he or she will definitely be chosen to be a member of the jury.

First the people summoned are interviewed to find out how they think about certain things. Often both 'sides' interview them – the prosecution, who are trying to prove someone is guilty, and the defence, who are trying to prove the person is not guilty. After these interviews 12 people are selected to be members of the jury.

Not all court cases have a jury. But in the UK serious criminal cases, such as robbery, fraud, and murder, always have a jury. Trial by jury was first started more than 300 years ago to make sure the king or government could not punish people who may have been innocent. A jury trial was thought to be the fairest way of deciding on a person's guilt or innocence, as ordinary people made the decision.

The four men on trial were found guilty of armed robbery. They stole around £1.75 million (US\$2.66 million) in different types of currencies

from a building at Heathrow, the main airport of the city of London. The men tied up and threatened warehouse workers with weapons while carrying out the robbery.

The robbery was committed in 2004. Since then the men have been tried in court three times. Twice, the police told the judge the juries had been interfered with. This is known as jury tampering. It means someone, possibly a person connected to those on trial, has tried to influence jury members to make a particular decision. For example, a person on the jury may receive threats. If this happens, the trial has to begin again with a new jury. Eventually, because of the problems in the previous two trials, the court decided to try the four men without a jury.

A new law was passed in the UK in 2003. It says when there is a danger of jury tampering, the trial can be held without a jury. But the recent trial was the first time the decision has been made to do this. Many people, including lawyers, were unhappy about the decision. They insist it is everyone's right to have a jury trial, and that this is a very important part of the UK's law.

The four men were sentenced to between ten and 17 years in prison. ■

CAN TOADS PREDICT EARTHQUAKES?

A scientist working in Italy says she has made a surprising discovery. She was studying how the cycle of the Moon affects the behaviour of toads. But something unexpected happened, which she thinks could show toads are able to predict when an earthquake is about to strike.

In March 2009 Rachel Grant was studying a colony, or group, of

toads that gathers at a lake in Italy each year to breed. She wondered if the cycle of the Moon affected the number of toads that came to the lake. One day she was surprised to find that nearly all the toads had suddenly disappeared. Ms Grant estimated the number of unpaired male toads had dropped by 96%.

Ms Grant had no idea why this happened. The male toads' normal behaviour, she said, is to stay at a breeding ground until the female toads have finished laying their eggs, or spawn. But at that time they suddenly disappeared even though the toads had just begun laying their spawn. Shortly afterwards, the breeding pairs of toads at the lake also disappeared. Ms Grant had never seen this before and wondered what had made all the toads leave.



Toads

On 6th April 2009, five days after the toads first began to disappear, a strong earthquake struck the town of L'Aquila, 74 kilometres (46 miles) away from the lake. The epicentre of the earthquake was not very deep underground. Many older buildings in the town collapsed. Thousands of people were injured and more than 250 killed.

In the past there have been many reports of animals such as dogs, cats and even elephants behaving strangely before an earthquake. However, few scientific studies have been done on this. One main reason is that it's almost impossible for scientists to

predict an earthquake, so they cannot observe animal behaviour before one strikes. Yet as Ms Grant was already studying toads in the area when the earthquake hit, she was able to record their behaviour without knowing what was happening.

After the earthquake smaller earth tremors, or aftershocks, continued for several days. Ms Grant says a few toads returned to the lake during this time, but soon went away again. The toads did not come back again until all the aftershocks had stopped. This was about ten days after the earthquake.

Some scientists believe the toads were just reacting to small tremors that happened before the earthquake. People in the town, they say, could also feel these earth tremors. But Ms Grant is sure the toads were able to detect something different. She now suspects the toads have some form of 'early warning system', which tells them to move to somewhere safe before an earthquake strikes. ■

PALACE CEILING COLLAPSES

A part of the ceiling of an ancient royal palace in Rome fell down on 30th March. Workers were repairing an area of the Golden Palace when a large part of the ceiling collapsed.

Construction of the Golden Palace, or Domus Aurea, began in 64 AD for Nero, the Roman Emperor at the time. The building work took four years to complete. Ancient writings say many parts of the palace were covered in gold leaf and very valuable stones. The Golden Palace is thought to have had as many as 300 rooms. It also contained a giant statue of Nero.

Many Romans at the time criticised the building of the palace. Nero had begun its construction

NewsCAST

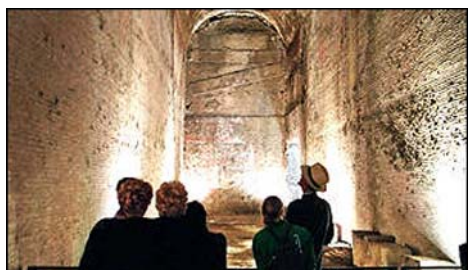
NONAPUS? — A chef in the USA had a surprise when cooking a special Greek meal. The dish contained octopus. When the chef picked up an octopus to put it in the pan, he noticed something unusual – the octopus had an extra leg. The man said he has cooked a lot of octopuses during his work as a chef, but has never seen one with nine legs. The chef said he counted three times to make sure he wasn't imagining the extra leg. Marine experts say the extra leg was probably a genetic mutation.

immediately after the Great Fire of Rome in 64 AD. This huge fire destroyed much of the city. Some people even suspected Nero had allowed the fire to keep burning without doing anything about it, so he would have plenty of empty land on which to build a brand new palace.

Others said the palace's opulence showed Nero was more interested in himself than in governing the people of the Roman Empire. Yet some historians living at the time wrote that after the fire Nero made sure food was given to people who had lost their homes. They also said he allowed people to shelter in some of his own palaces.

Most modern historians think Nero made decisions that were popular with, and good for, the poorer people and the ordinary citizens of Rome at the beginning of his reign. But, they say, later the emperor seemed to become obsessed with his own power. He is known to have ordered the torture and killing of Christians living in the Roman Empire and even arranged to have his mother killed.

Soon after Nero died in 68 AD all the gold leaf and valuable stones were removed from the palace. The area was filled in with earth and a new building built on top of it. So most of the rooms are now 'underground'. Archaeologists are still working to uncover parts of the palace.



Part of the Golden Palace, in Rome

The Golden Palace is a popular place for tourists to visit. But it has had to be closed several times in the past for repairs or because officials were not sure if it was safe for visitors to go inside. Experts say the biggest problem has been rainwater seeping

into the palace from the ground above. This has made some of the bricks crumble. The palace building was closed to visitors in 2001, in 2005, and in 2008 for repairs to be made.

Officials said there was no danger as the area where the ceiling collapsed was not open to the public. Rome has had much more rain than usual in recent months. The officials think it was this extra rainwater that caused the ceiling to fall in. ■

PROPOSED TAX ON SWEETS

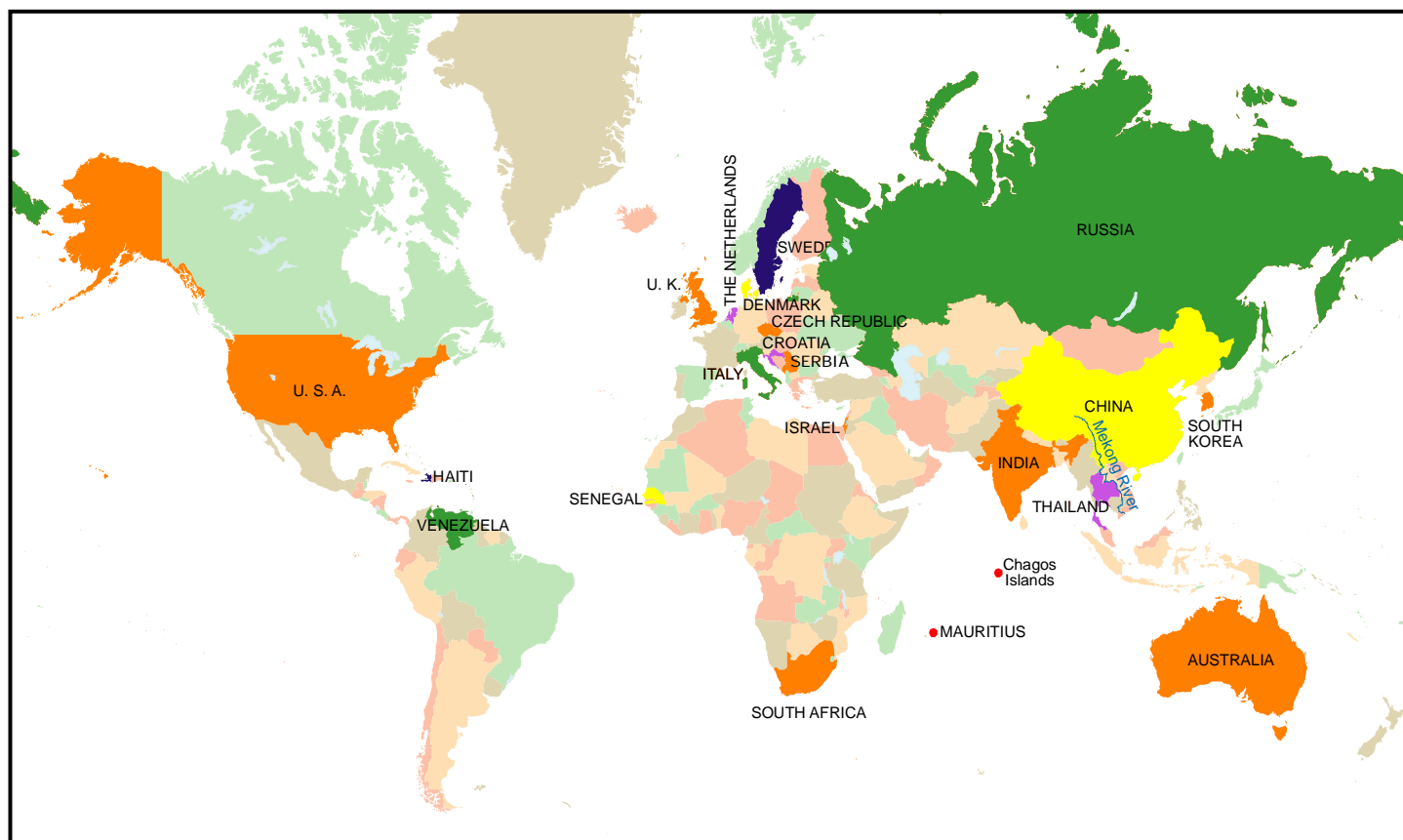
Health experts working at a medical university in Sweden have suggested the government introduce a 'sugar tax' in the country. They say the new tax is needed because of the increasing obesity problem in Sweden.

The health experts wrote an article that was published in one of

the country's newspapers. The article said the Swedish government should consider making the price of sugary and fatty foods more expensive to discourage people from buying them.

Governments in many countries put taxes on things that people buy or use. These taxes make the items or services more expensive. The tax amount included in the price is paid to the government, and not kept by the company that makes the item or provides the service. These taxes have different names in different countries, such as Value Added Tax (VAT), Goods and Service Tax (GST) or just Sales Tax.

Governments decide what percentage should be added to the price for the sales tax. In some countries items such as food, books, newspapers and children's clothes are ex-empt from these sales taxes.



This map shows countries to which news stories refer in this issue. Visit www.newsademic.com for more detailed world maps.

Some other countries already tax ‘unhealthy’ foods. In January, Denmark brought in a new ‘candy tax’, which has made chocolate bars, ice cream and sweets more expensive.



Sweets

Other countries have also decided that increasing the price of unhealthy foods means people eat less of them. For example, last month a medical team in the USA claimed there was a link between the cost of fatty foods and how much of them people eat. The team studied what a group of people bought and ate over a 20-year period. The study, the medical team said, showed that a higher price on ‘junk food’ made people less likely to buy it.

However, some people have criticised the idea of a sweet or candy tax. In Denmark, they say, it encourages people to cross the border into neighbouring countries where they can easily buy large amounts of less expensive sweets. Others say an extra tax does not help people lose weight. This is because there are many reasons why people can be overweight other than eating too many sweets. Some even suspect it is just an excuse for governments to raise more money in taxes.

Some health experts warn it can be difficult to decide which ‘unhealthy’ foods should have an extra tax put on them. Fizzy drinks, or soda pop, the experts say, could

be included because they have no nutritional value. But some ‘junk foods’, such as fast-food pizzas, do have some nutritional value. So eating them in small amounts is not so much of a problem.

The health experts in Sweden admit there are difficulties in introducing a new sweet tax. Yet they say the effect of unhealthy foods on people’s health is becoming such a big problem in Sweden that something must be done to try to solve it. ■

CENSUS IN INDIA

The Indian government has just begun a complicated project that will take around one year to complete. The project, called a national census, will count and register every person over the age of 15 living in India.

A census is a way of officially counting everyone who lives in a country. Many governments do them, often every ten years. Long ago censuses were done just to count the number of people. Nowadays they are used to collect much more information. In many countries census forms now have lots of questions. These can include questions about a person’s religion, education, work, and how big his or her house is. Among other things, information collected in censuses is used by governments to work out how much money it should collect in tax and on what it should be spent.

The first census in India was done in 1872. Then the population was estimated to be 236 million. Now it is thought to be about 1.2 billion. The Indian government says its census will be the largest operation of its kind in human history. India has the second-highest population

in the world after China, which has around 1.3 billion people.

The census in India will gather information that includes a person’s age, sex, job, education, and religion. It will also record the services to which people have access at home, such as the internet, a bank account, clean drinking water and mobile phones. It also asks questions about people’s houses and the materials they are made of. Over 2.5 million people will be involved in collecting information for the census. The project is expected to cost 57 billion rupees (£840 million).

The first person to be registered on 1st April was India’s president, Pratibha Patil. Dr Manmohan Singh, the country’s prime minister, was added to the census register on 3rd April.



Pratibha Patil, President of India

Dr Singh says it is important for everyone to be counted in this way. He says the information will be used to plan what services and infrastructure people’s taxes should be spent on in the future.

The census takers will also count and register the millions of homeless people living in India. At the moment, the number of homeless people in the country is only an estimate, or guess. The government says the census will help it plan how best to provide for the country’s poorest people.

One new part of the census is that everyone will be photographed and have fingerprints taken of all of their

fingers and their two thumbs. This type of data is known as biometric information. The Indian government says the biometric information collected during the census will be used in the future to issue everyone over the age of 15 with an identity card. ■

YEAR'S BIGGEST CHILDREN'S BOOK EVENT

From 23rd to 26th March, authors, illustrators and book publishers attended the Bologna Children's Book Fair. People who produce children's books consider this to be the most important children's book event. The Fair is held every year in the city of Bologna, in northern Italy.



The main purpose of the event is to show off new children's books and story ideas. To help them sell their books, many authors use agents. These agents show the author's book to different publishers who they think might want to publish it. The agent then negotiates how much the publisher will pay the author for his or her story. This is known as selling the copyrights, or 'rights', to the book.

Separate publishing companies often publish authors' books in different countries. Publishers and agents gather at Bologna to discuss the sale of a book's 'rights' for each country. For example, even if a book has already been published in Australia, no publisher may yet have bought the 'rights' to publish it in the USA. The agent can take the Australian book to Bologna and show it to American publishers who might be interested in buying the rights for the USA.

NewsCAST

LUCKY DUCK — A duck found itself going on an unexpected 644 kilometre (400 mile) journey. A man from the UK accidentally hit two ducks while driving in Belgium. He did not stop to look at the damage until he was nearly back home in the UK. The man was surprised to find one of the ducks stuck inside the radiator grille of his car. It was still alive. He managed to free the injured duck and put it in a box. The man then drove it to an animal rescue centre. The duck was found to have a broken wing and is now recovering from its injuries.

The Fair is also the place where agents and publishers can begin to build up interest, or hype, for books that are soon to be released.

People who attend the Fair discuss changes in the book industry. They try to predict what types, or genres, of books might become popular in the next few years. This year some felt that stories about zombies and alien invasions would be favourites. Most publishers agree that trilogies, in which a story is told over a series of three books, will continue to be very popular.

Another part of the Book Fair is an exhibition of children's illustrators' work. A jury of people who work in the book industry selects which authors' works will be displayed.

The book fair also hosts two children's book prizes. The Hans Christian Andersen award is named after a famous storyteller from Denmark who told and wrote fairy tales – such as *The Little Mermaid* and *The Emperor's new Clothes*. This prize is awarded every two years, to one author and one illustrator. The winners

were David Almond, from the UK, and Jutta Bauer, from Germany.

The second book prize was the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. Ms Lindgren was a Swedish author famous for writing the *Pippi Longstocking* books. She died in 2002. The government of Sweden awards this prize. It is worth SEK 5 million (£460,000) and is the world's largest prize for children's literature. The winner was Kitty Crowther, a Belgian author and illustrator. Ms Crowther, whose books are mainly in French, has written and produced illustrations for more than 35 children's books. ■

GULF STREAM

Scientists from the USA have announced the results of seven years of research on an ocean current called the Gulf Stream. They say their research shows that the current is not slowing down.



The Gulf Stream is a powerful warm ocean current. It circulates between the southern coast of the USA and the northern coast of Africa. On the American side of the Atlantic Ocean the Gulf Stream splits in two. One part flows across the northern Atlantic Ocean towards Western Europe. This 'branch' is part of the Gulf Stream but some people call it the North Atlantic Drift.

Once the warm waters of the Gulf Stream reach northern Europe they

cool and sink towards the bottom of the sea. There they form part of a cold ocean current, which flows back southward along the bottom of the ocean.

The Gulf Stream affects the climates of North America and Northern Europe. It brings heat from the **tropics** further north. This means temperatures in Northern Europe are much warmer in winter than they might be if the Gulf Stream did not exist. Climate experts say if there were no Gulf Stream most of Northern Europe would be covered in snow and ice all winter, and summers would be much cooler.

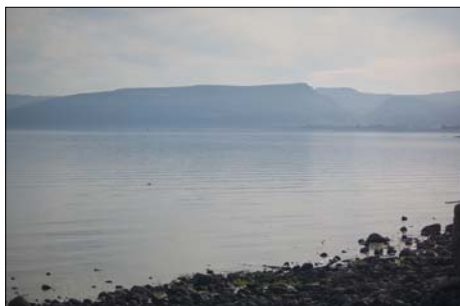
Some people have worried that global warming could affect the Gulf Stream. They say rising temperatures could melt large amounts of ice in Greenland. If this were to happen huge volumes of fresh water would flow into the North Atlantic Ocean. Some say it could cause the Gulf Stream to slow down or even stop.

Most scientists agree the climate of Northern Europe would get much colder if the Gulf Stream stopped. Recently a UK scientist claimed this happened in the past. He believes a sudden huge flood of freshwater stopped the North Atlantic Drift about 13,000 years ago. This, he claims, was the cause of the mini-ice age in Europe, which lasted for around 1,400 years. The scientist thinks the freshwater flood came from the sudden emptying of a lake that covered what's now part of the USA and Canada.

The scientists measuring the Gulf Stream used satellites that record the exact height of the sea, and special detectors placed in the ocean. The scientists say their measurements show the volume of water and speed of the Gulf Stream goes up and down each year, but overall it is not decreasing or slowing down. ■

SEA OF GALILEE FISHING BAN

Government officials in Israel have announced fishing on the Sea of Galilee is to be banned. The ban will last for two years and begin at the end of April.



Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee is a large freshwater lake. It is around 13 kilometres (eight miles) wide and 21 kilometres (13 miles) long. The lake is shaped like a harp or lyre – a stringed instrument from ancient Greece. In Hebrew the Sea of Galilee is known as the 'Kinneret'. Some people believe this name comes from the Hebrew word for harp.

The Sea of Galilee is just over 200 metres (656 feet) below sea level. This makes it the second-lowest lake in the world. The lowest is the nearby Dead Sea. Unlike the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea contains salt water.

It is known that fishing has been done on the Sea of Galilee for thousands of years. The lake features in many stories of the Bible, the holy book of the Christian religion. Four of Jesus' followers, or disciples – Peter, John, Andrew and James – worked as fishermen on the Sea of Galilee. Some Bible stories also tell of miracles Jesus performed there. For example, according to the Bible it is where Jesus walked on water and where he fed 5,000 people with three loaves of bread and two fishes.

In the past the Sea of Galilee was known for its large number of fish.

The most common is a fish called Tilapia, which is also known as 'St Peter's fish'. But over the past ten years the numbers of fish in the lake have become smaller and smaller. Officials report that five years ago around 300 tonnes of fish were caught in the Sea of Galilee each year. Yet last year the total was only about nine tonnes.

Much of the freshwater used in Israel comes from the Sea of Galilee. The increasing use of water and a decrease in the amount of rain has meant the level of water in the lake has been dropping. Officials also say fishers have been using illegal nets with smaller holes. These trap small young fish. To keep fish stocks **sustainable**, it's necessary to leave young fish to breed.

Another problem is birds. Recently, the number of fish-eating birds living around the lake has increased. Some people claim these birds have arrived because nearby fish farms are scaring the birds away from their fish stocks.

Officials insist the two-year fishing ban is needed. They say it will give the smaller fish still in the lake time to grow and breed. ■

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Editor: Amber Thody

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B O O K R E V I E W

HAVE YOU READ ...?



came back an undead skeleton, stronger – and a lot angrier – than before!

Fast-forward to 13-year-old Stephanie Edgley's time, and the war has long been won and the evildoers killed, imprisoned, or sworn to uphold the law and pardoned. Skulduggery, still working for the Sanctuary, has a new role – he's a detective ensuring magic-users stick to the law – or else!

When we met Skulduggery and Stephanie in the first book in the series, Stephanie's rather normal – and boring – life had suddenly become very interesting. Her uncle's death became the reason she found herself insisting on taking part in a supernatural investigation, fighting magic-using villains, and discovering many things about herself – including her *real* name. Skulduggery and Stephanie carried out a successful investigation, together solving the mystery of a powerful magical device called the Sceptre of the Ancients.

Playing With Fire takes place shortly after their first adventure, and shows how Stephanie manages to juggle her normal and not-so-normal lives.

I really like how the author mixes great action and magic with the details of Stephanie's home life. She's working hard to improve her elemental magic skills while at the same time solving her dilemma of being in two places at once. A clever spell allows her reflection in a mirror to 'step out' and assume her normal life,

Skulduggery Pleasant is a pretty nice guy with a pretty bad history. He was once a very powerful mage working with the force of good called the Sanctuary. He fought evil magicians and supernatural beasts bent on resurrecting terrible beings known only as the Faceless Ones to take over the world. During that heroic battle something went terribly wrong and Skulduggery was killed. But death wasn't enough to stop him: Skulduggery

eating dinner with her parents and even better, going to school. The advantages are enormous; she doesn't even miss anything, because at the end of the day she and her reflection combine and all the reflection's memories and experiences become hers too.

Stephanie quickly learns that 'remembering' her days through her reflection is not as important as actually being there experiencing them first-hand. But Stephanie wants to be a user of elemental magic, and a detective for the Sanctuary. As the book progresses, her work with Skulduggery becomes increasingly important so she readily makes the sacrifice to spend her real time with her undead partner.

The villain they defeat together in the first book is nothing compared with what's in store for them in the second. With their friend and ally, Tanith Low – a sword-wielding warrior – Skulduggery and Stephanie must battle a vampire lord and match wits with a famous villain, Springheeled Jack. Yet an even more ominous threat faces them in the form of The Grotesquery, a unique being of magic that is also a gateway from this world to where the Faceless Ones were imprisoned an era ago.

I recommend reading the *Skulduggery Pleasant* books in sequence to get a full sense of the depth and scale of this great story. Also don't miss book 3, *The Faceless Ones*, (see the review in issue 100). This story is based on the supernatural and magic, and has many elements which are both fascinating and a little scary. Best suited for readers aged ten and up and for anyone who loves a good ghost story.

Skulduggery Pleasant: Playing With Fire by Derek Landy. HarperCollins

Reviewed by **Chris Tarn**

WANT US TO REVIEW A BOOK THAT YOU HAVE READ AND ENJOYED?

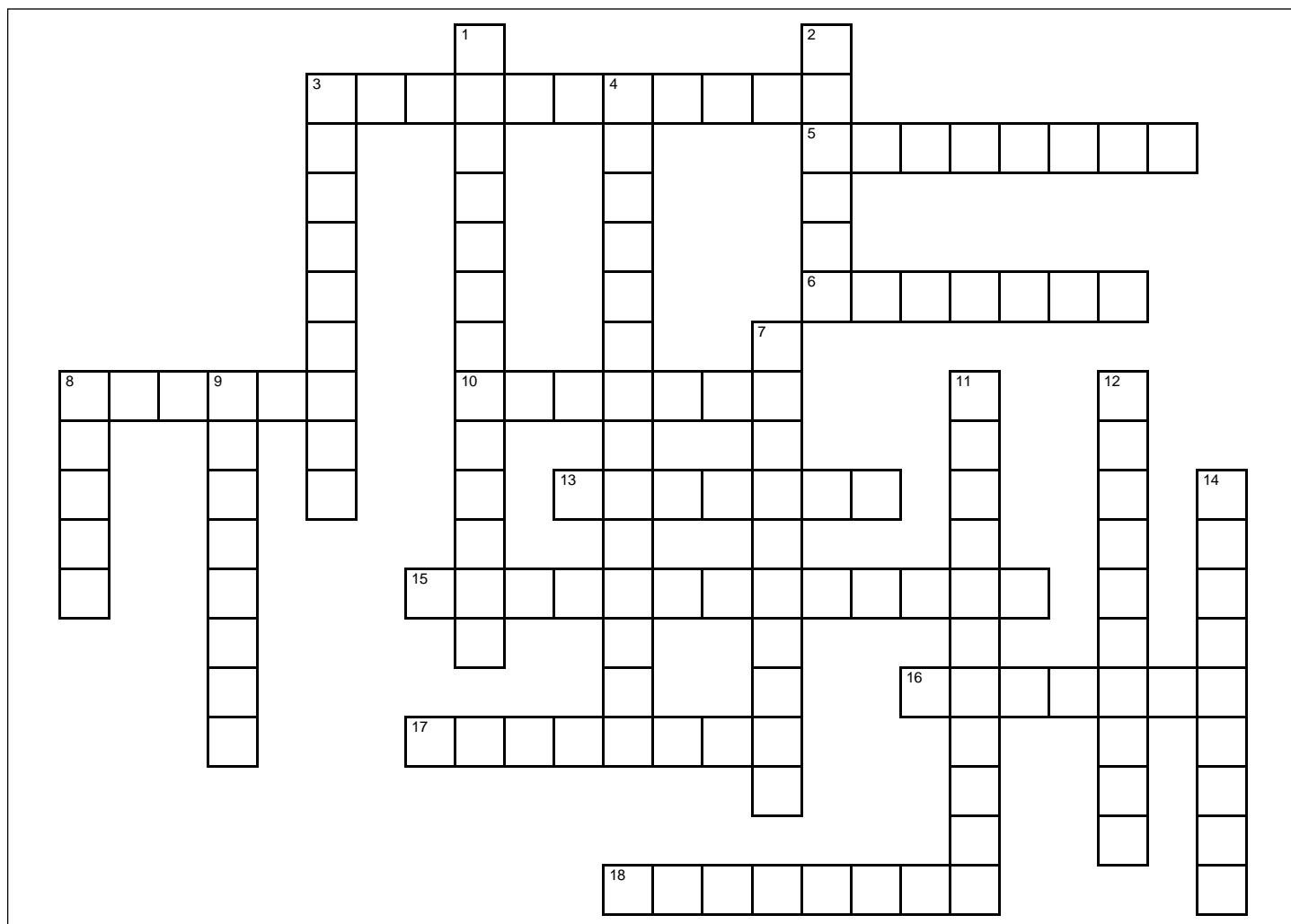
If you do, look for the 'recommended book' link in your subscriber menu when you log in to our website.

Complete the form and tell us why you enjoyed the book. If we review your choice, we'll mention your name and include some of your comments.

GLOSSARY

PRIZE COMPETITION

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword find the 20 words in the word search on the next page ➡



Across

- 3 Adjective** Having a special meaning
5 Noun Luxury and great wealth
6 Verb To retrieve a sunken ship or rescue cargo from a shipwreck or fire
8 Adjective Having special permission not to do or pay something
10 Noun The way in which a government or other organisation thinks about or deals with a particular matter
13 Noun A powerful small boat designed to pull or push larger ships
15 Adverb Relating to military plans to gain an advantage
16 Noun (Plural) The areas of the Earth on either side of the equator, where the weather is the warmest
17 Verb To scatter
18 Noun The merciless killing of a large number of people

Down

- 1 Adjective** Unsuitable or improper
2 Noun (Plural) Islands consisting of circular coral reefs that surround lagoons
3 Verb Completely soaked with moisture
4 Noun Systems and services such as transport and power supplies that enable a country or organisation to work effectively
7 Verb Discusses with others to reach an agreement
8 Noun An official representative, especially one sent by a government to another
9 Noun A change in an organism's genes or chromosomes
11 Noun Refusal to accept ideas, beliefs or behaviour different from your own
12 Adjective Describes the relationships between the air, land, water, animals and plants
14 Adjective Describes something basic used for a short time when nothing else is available

GLOSSARY

PRIZE COMPETITION *CONTINUED*

E T A I R P O R P P A N I S O U T S
 R C H E E R N E R U T S O P H E M I
 U I N S X P M U T A T I O N H E T G
 T R E A M E E A R U U O U S P P F N
 C J X K R S M H S V Q T E F C S I I
 U L S H K E S P Y S O T S X A Q H F
 R H N O L M L E T P A T X T I B S I
 T X Y R O E E O Z I R C U J X F E C
 S Z W L P S C Z T A Q R R G K Q K A
 A Q L U U X T O T N A Q T E B N A N
 R X Z L L B G E L T I E A G X O M T
 F C T P E E G P E O R A T T S C A K
 N Q L Q N I V D K R G O T V O S X T
 I S R N C P P A J F E I P I H L S N
 W X Q A E B R B P Q R T C I W U L I
 S A L V A G E Z V H X C Z A C P A S
 E L X C G F X R W Y Q C N H L S W F
 Y O V N E N N Y G D I S P E R S E V

INSTRUCTIONS: ③ Find the crossword answers in the word search. Words can go vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back to front. ④ After solving the word search write down the unused letters, starting at the top left and reading from left to right, top to bottom to find the solution. **Hint** - The numbers of letters and words in the solution are shown under the word search.

COMPETITION PRIZES

Glossary Prize Winner

Paperback copy of 'Skulduggery Pleasant: Playing With Fire' by Derek Landy

Glossary Prize Runner up

10 free issues of Newsademic

Sudoku Prize Winner

10 free issues of Newsademic

ISSUE NUMBER 115 PRIZE WINNERS

Glossary Competition

Oliver Schmidt, Germany
Lyn Thanh, USA

Sudoku Competition

Sophie Farrell, UK

Competition solution (two words with a total of 18 letters)

Go to www.newsademic.com log in and submit your solution by clicking on the "Enter competition" link within the Subscribers tools menu.

Deadline for receiving your entry is 10 pm on 22nd April 2010 (GMT/UTC).

COMPETITION RULES:

1 Competition prizes are awarded on a per issue and not a per edition basis. 2 Only one entry per person per competition will be accepted. 3 You must obtain permission from your parent/guardian before entering if you are under 16 years of age. 4 Deadline for receiving entries is at 10 pm (GMT) on 22nd April 2010. 5 The winners will be randomly selected from all correct entries received. 6 The winners will be contacted by E-mail. Newsademic's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 7 Prizes must be taken as offered. There are no cash alternatives. 8 Newsademic does not accept any responsibility for lost or late entries due to the internet. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt. 9 Prizes won by those who have used a school subscription to enter will be awarded to the individual entrant and not to the school. 10 Competitions are not open to employees or contractors of Newsademic. 11 Newsademic reserves the right to cancel competitions at any stage, if in their opinion it is deemed necessary or if circumstances arise beyond their control. 12 These rules are governed by the laws of England and Wales. 13 When entering competitions entrants will be deemed to have accepted these rules and to agree to be bound by them.

SUDOKU COMPETITION

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Fill the boxes on each horizontal row with a number between 1 and 9. ② Fill the boxes on each vertical row with a number between 1 and 9. ③ Make sure that each number between 1 and 9 also appears in each highlighted 3 x 3 square box. ④ After solving the Sudoku puzzle write down the numbers from the tinted vertical column from top to bottom in the boxes below.

Competition Solution

7	6					1		
			3				7	4
					6		8	
					3			5
		5		4	8		1	9
			1		5	4		
					4	2		7
6					9			
	8						9	6